

PALOS VERDES BAPTIST CHURCH

# YOUTH MINISTRY

WORSHIP HIM COMPLETELY.  
WALK WITH HIM CONSISTENTLY.  
WITNESS FOR HIM COMPASSIONATELY.

## FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

### Upcoming Events

February 10: FNF @ 7:00 PM

February 11: Church Work Day  
@ 8:00 AM

February 17-20: Youth Winter  
Retreat @ San Marcos Camp  
(Santa Barbara)

February 24: FNF @ 7:00 PM

March 3: FNF @ 7:00 PM



### Kingdom Growth

// As 2017 is already well underway, we've continued, as a youth ministry, to walk together through the Gospel of Mark. In a time of presidential transition and instability, it has been an encouragement to be reminded of the fact that God's kingdom is growing, is on the move, and will never end.



This month, we will have our joint **Youth Winter Retreat** with Cerritos Baptist Church, from Fri-Mon, **February 17-20**, at **San Marcos Christian Camp**. Get ready!

For this month's newsletter, we are changing up the format. Enjoy reading a very well written devotional from one of our own students, Aimee, as well as an in-depth update on the work of God that is occurring on the campus of UCLA, through an alumni update with one of our youth alumni, Leslie Jonan, who is serving on staff at UCLA's InterVarsity.

### QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

Feel free to e-mail Ben at [benfriedman@pvbc.com](mailto:benfriedman@pvbc.com), call/text (310)-703-2065, or contact any one of our awesome Youth Advisors!



Worship Him  
completely



Walk with Him  
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Witness for Him  
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## **Student Devotional: By Aimee C. (SLT Member, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

*How do we truly glorify God in all aspects of our lives? This question, which Ben himself often poses, constantly plagues my mind. I sometimes wonder how my balancing equations and calculating molar mass glorifies God, and not just myself and my GPA. I even wonder if my volunteer work serves God's kingdom more than it serves me. All of us, even if we have already checked off our physical science requirement for high school or are too young to even volunteer, should wonder: *what in my life is done for the glory of God? And what even is "glorifying God"?**



**Matthew 5:16** states "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven." This, of course, indicates that everyone should use their talents to show others the hand of God. While this is a valid explanation for how to glorify God in all aspects of your life, I still think that there is *more to it* than using your talents to glorify God which might also glorifying yourself, even if indirectly. I truly believe that there is something special about being a Christian – and I think that God wants us to make others wonder about this "special quality", which is almost hard to "put one's finger on".

Francis Chan, a well-renowned Asian American preacher, simply said, "God wants to change us so much that it intrigues others." (Just think about that for a moment.) It's hard for us to change. And none of us is perfect. So how can we go about doing this?

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Fridays @ 7:00 PM: Spring FNF:** We will continue our FNF year this February, as we look at the **Gospel of Mark**. Come, and challenge yourself to bring a friend. (This applies to parents, too—know any youth who would benefit from FNF?) Who do you know who would be helped by experiencing the presence of God. Better question: is there really anyone who *wouldn't*?

**Saturday, February 11 @ 8:00 AM Church Work Day:** A simple way to begin serving in 2017 is to serve our very own church. Next Saturday, we will have a church workday, where we will meet at church to work on various projects relating to the maintenance and upkeep of our church property. There will be coffee and donuts for those who arrive at the start of the morning. Let Ben know if you are coming.

**Winter Retreat: Sign-up ASAP!** Our registration forms are still out for this year's upcoming Winter Retreat, over Presidents' Day Weekend (**February 17-20, 2017**). You can pick up a registration form any Friday or Sunday, or by e-mailing Ben. You won't want to miss it, especially as we are partnering with another church from the South Bay, **Cerritos Baptist Church**.

(con't) For me, I have to become a more unselfish person. With glorifying God rather than yourself, there is definitely a degree of unselfishness required. According to **1 Corinthians 13:5**, love is not self-seeking. Over the past few months, I've learned that sometimes, I need to remember to put others' needs and desires before my own. As Olaf the snowman (from "Frozen") very simply phrases it, "True love is putting someone else's needs before yours" – and sometimes "someone else" is your parents, your siblings, your friends, or your God.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these **(Mark 12:30-31)**." As we learn to glorify God, we learn to love Him and others better.

"If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also **(Matthew 5:39)**." We must change in ways of mercy and love. We intrigue others with our expression of love, rather than the typical expressions of hate. So... how can we glorify God in all aspects of our life? We can so by showing love. Even in the face of adversity, show God's love. Therefore, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can (John Wesley)." Show God's love, through you, everywhere.

God is love and as we learn to love, we become more like Jesus; we change in ways that intrigue others and even show them a glimpse of God Himself. That is what "to glorify God" truly means.

## Alumni Spotlight: Leslie Jonan, UCLA InterVarsity

**What is your current role with InterVarsity and how long have you been serving in that role?**

I'm currently on staff with InterVarsity at UCLA. I oversee the largest part of our relational ministry, leading a team of 7 interns and students who lead dorm and off-campus apartment communities. This is our Area Leaders team and each leader has anywhere between 3-6 small group bible studies they oversee. I've been serving with InterVarsity for 5 years now, 2 of which were part-time and the last 3 have been full-time.

**What are some tangible ways you've seen God working at InterVarsity at UCLA over the past year?**

Over the last year we've seen more students come to faith in our ministry than we have ever seen before. Last year we saw 80 students make decisions to follow Jesus! So far this year we have already seen 79 students come to faith and we're expectant for more! I also see students growing in passion and perseverance to reach parts of UCLA that haven't been reached before.



## What is the single greatest area of your faith that God has grown you in, through your work with InterVarsity?

God has grown me to be confident that He is at work in every single person. I believe now more than ever that God is pursuing everyone and everyone is searching for who God is and the life He offers, but they just don't know it yet. People are searching for deeper meaning and purpose, but they may not have had the opportunity to check out Jesus for himself.



## What is one real challenge with working with college students you wish people knew about?

College students are open to Jesus but they're so busy, both externally and internally. More and more, I'm finding it challenging to get a student to commit to learning about Jesus for themselves if they're set on getting involved in different things like clubs, or studying hard, and or even getting a job. But if they are convinced enough that Jesus could be worth their time, then they are very open to learning more. How we get to this point is by building trust and trust is something built with time!

## How has God's grace met you at a point weakness over the past year?

There are many times God has shown me so much grace! In campus ministry reaching college students, there is always more you could be doing. Always. But I think the thing God has taught me is that this is his ministry and I get the opportunity to do it WITH him. And that's what counts. Being with the Father in the ministry and remembering He is the one in control and He is the one at work. And when I can do this well, I can take more time to rest and more time to pray and not depend on myself to get things done!



## How can we support you in prayer, and financially?

Please pray for me as I'm directing our annual conference designed for seekers or students who don't consider themselves Christians. The conference is called **Can This Wait** and it's happening **February 24-26**. Every year we see many students come to faith and we're praying for that again this year. You can also be praying for me as I'm still currently expanding my ministry partnership team and looking for more people to join me in prayer and financial partnership. I'm still hoping to raise around \$6K for this academic year.

You can support me here: [https://donate.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Leslie\\_Jonan](https://donate.intervarsity.org/donate/to/Leslie_Jonan)

## Prayer Points: How to be a "Persistent Widow" in February (Luke 18:1-8)

This February, please join us in prayer:

- 1) For God to make us a welcoming ministry.
- 2) For God's favor on our **Youth Winter Retreat** from **February 17-20**.
- 3) For God to bring **three more new youth** to FNF this month.